

Problem: Onion and Garlic (*Allium canadense* and *Allium vineale*)



Description: Wild garlic (*Allium vineale*) and wild onion (*Allium canadense*) are two closely related plants that can become weed problems in home lawns and landscapes. Though wild garlic and wild onion look much alike, each has an odor that is characterized by its name – wild garlic smells like garlic and wild onion smells like onion. These plants are perennials that can also reproduce by seeds and aerial bulbils. Bulbils form at the top of the stem and are oval and smooth. Wild garlic also reproduces by underground bulb offsets, but wild onion does not. Both species produce a clump of plants that is unsightly in a lawn.

Recommendations: Traditionally we have used 2,4-D or 2,4-D + MCPP + Dicamba (i.e. Trimec, Weed-Out, Weed-B-Gon). These products should be sprayed during March on a day that is at least 50 degrees. Newer products are Weed Free Zone and Speed Zone. Both are combination products that contain a formulation of Trimec plus carfentrazone. These are more active at temperatures near 50 degrees, which is lower than traditional products. A spreader-sticker added to the spray should help any of these products be more effective. At times, the spreader-sticker is already mixed into the weed killer; no additional amount is needed. Also, mowing immediately before the application may help increase control. These herbicides are also effective on dandelions. Commercial personnel can use metsulfuron (Manor and Bladet) or imazaquin (Image) on warm-season grasses. Though more effective than the combination products mentioned above, they will damage tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass and other cool-season grasses.

References:

[Wild Garlic & Wild Onion](#), Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home & Garden Information Center, HGIC 2311

Last Update: 1/24/2018

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

“Knowledge for Life”

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service